

Liaison

Library Association News-Sheet

News Editors: R. G. Surridge and D. R. Jamieson

January 1959

L.A.'s ADVICE REJECTED AT STOCKTON

In *The Times Literary Supplement* for 31st October, 1958, applications were invited from Chartered Librarians for the post of Deputy Borough Librarian at a salary in accordance with A.P.T. Grade II (£725-£845). The advertisement stated that the person appointed would also be responsible in the Borough Librarian's absence for the administration of a Museum and Art Gallery.

On 4th November the Secretary wrote to the Town Clerk advising him that the grading was not considered likely to produce applications from Chartered Librarians with the necessary experience and of the calibre desirable for such a senior position, especially in view of the additional responsibility in respect of the Museum and Art Gallery. He also stated that of the 18 other municipal library authorities in the population group 70,000-80,000, excluding Metropolitan boroughs, the grading of the post of Deputy Borough Librarian was higher than A.P.T. II in 14 instances. The Secretary also requested the employing authority to reconsider the grading with a view to the post being re-graded to not less than A.P.T. III. A notice was inserted in a subsequent issue of *The Times Literary Supplement* inviting intending candidates to communicate with the Secretary. NALGO was informed of the action taken and requested to take trade-union action in support of the Association's representations.

Five of the six intending candidates who wrote to the Secretary agreed to refrain from applying or to withdraw their applications until the employing authority had considered the matter and a decision on the grading had been reached. No reply was received from the sixth candidate, Mr. A. E. Greenland, A.L.A.

On 3rd December, the Town Clerk informed the Secretary that his letter had been considered by the appropriate Committee, but that an appointment had been made on the advertised salary scale. There were two candidates interviewed for the appointment which was offered to Mr. Greenland.

Mr. Greenland took the job at A.P.T. II.

NEW YEAR HONOURS

The Council learned with pleasure of the bestowal of Knighthood upon Dr. D. W. Logan, Principal of University of London, who has been concerned in the recent negotiations for the acquisition by the University of Chaucer House in exchange for a new headquarters for the Library Association.

C.B.E.

Mr. D. Niven, F.L.A., formerly Librarian of Bulawayo, "for work on behalf of the National Free Library Service, S. Rhodesia."

Dr. H. J. Plenderleith, Keeper, the British Museum and author of a work well known to students, *The Preservation of leather bookbindings*.

O.B.E.

Mr. P. McGrath, H.M.S.O., who delivered a paper on the work of the Stationery Office at the Brighton Conference in September.

Mr. B. Mason, Managing Director, the Winterbottom Book Cloth Group of Companies.

FREEDOM FIGHTER

Professor Istvan Bibó, librarian of Budapest University from 1951 to 1956, has been sentenced to life imprisonment for his part in the Hungarian rising of October 1956. Dr. Bibó, who is 47, was Minister of State in the Cabinet of the late Mr. Imre Nagy, and is thought to have been arrested in May, 1957 with others who opposed the government of Mr. Kadar.

SHEFFIELD FILM FOR MOSCOW

A recent report by the City Librarian of Sheffield shows that since its first public showing on 23rd July, 1956, the library film has been shown to 181 groups or organizations involving at least 500 screenings. To date, 60 copies have been sold, at cost price to organizations throughout the world.

A copy was sent on a long loan to the American Library Association. Arrangements are being made for a copy to be sent to the Lenin State Library in Moscow for demonstration to the library staff. The Sheffield Library Committee suggests that the film stay in Moscow for a fairly long time for it to be shown to other interested organizations.

Copies were exchanged for films by the Library of Congress, it has been shown on Mexican T.V., and, completing the circuit, to M.P.s in our own Houses of Parliament. There is a possibility that during 1959 the film itself may be re-edited and brought more up to date.

AS MR. CARTER WAS SAYING*

Dampness and dry rot are so prevalent at **Richmond** Library that a new heating system was considered not worth the cost. The existing heating is to be improved in the hope of alleviating the trouble, against the time when a new building can be put up.

Sutton (St. Helens) library, 32 years old and "the most used library in the system", is sinking because of subsidence. A claim has been made against the N.C.B. who have made an inspection and seen the damage being done, but so far have done nothing to relieve the trouble. A new building "in the very near future" for **Swadlincote** (Staffs.) library should literally put them on the level again. Subsidence there has caused the floor to slope to the extent that some readers have felt "queer" and ceased to visit the library.

West Riding County Library Service are planning a new H.Q. to replace the present building which is reported as "wretched and cramped... The maintenance of a service from its H.Q. in Wakefield is in itself a major achievement". Describing the building as a "slum" the Committee Chairman said that in one department a pillar had been erected to prop up a dangerous floor; while another Councillor commented that if a Factory Inspector visited the place the Council would likely find themselves in Court.

Devonport's library, crumbling and dangerous so that masonry has had to be hewn off for safety, was under threat of demolition. Now £500 repairs have been ordered which should give it "5 more years life".

* In a paper at the Brighton Conference, in which he heavily criticized the general state of library building.

Boccaccio—An Appeal

The guide-book to Certaldo in Tuscany, the birth-place of Giovanni Boccaccio, speaks of "a comprehensive library of editions of Boccaccio's works in all languages". I was therefore surprised to find only one very small bookcase and the only English edition amongst the books in it being a slim volume containing but a few of the tales.

The original library described in the guide book was destroyed by bombing in the last war and the Curator is now trying to rebuild and restock it. He is appealing for donations of editions of the works of Boccaccio in all languages, together with biographies and essays of the writer. Some librarians may have editions they no longer require but which would be very welcome in Certaldo. All donations are recorded in a book of benefactors. The address to which they should be sent—

Il Bibliotecario,
Biblioteca della Casa del Boccaccio,
Certaldo,
Firenze,
Italia.

BARBARA HARRINGTON,
(County Seely, Isle of Wight)

PEN FRIEND WANTED

An Indian librarian, Miss K. A. Ghare, B.Sc., Dip.Lib.(Bombay), of Ghare Quarters, Poona 4, India, wishes to hear from English librarians. She writes: "I wish to have friends from the same profession: please give my address to anybody who is willing to accept me as a friend. I am interested in reading, knitting and cooking; but gardening and plant collection is my hobby. My age is 25."

BRIEFLY

It was announced in Parliament that the Minister of Education expects the Roberts Committee to present its report "shortly". This is likely to be about the middle of February.

Birmingham is to increase its stock of overseas telephone directories to about 300. It is considered that they will give a cheaper, better service than trade directories.

Literally bringing the library into the Market Place is **Dudley P.L.**, who recently rented an empty shop in the town centre and used the window space for an exhibition to publicize the library's facilities. Visitors were able to enrol on the spot and borrow books from the displays.

Soviet "Who's Who". The Institute for the Study of the U.S.S.R. have produced a 728 page volume in English, contributing details of the lives of over 2,000 men and women of the Soviet Union—political leaders, soldiers, writers, musicians, engineers, and churchmen. Nothing of this kind is published in Moscow, and few personal biographies, even of the leaders, appear in Soviet newspapers. All the biographies have been brought remarkably up to date—including Zhukov's dismissal and Bulganin's transference from the Prime Minister's office to the State Bank. The *Biographic Directory of the U.S.S.R.* is published by Scarecrow Press, London agents, Bailey & Swinfen, at £7 5s.

The Christmas number of the *Preston Children's Library Magazine* runs to 128 stencilled pages attractively illustrated. Children of all ages have supplied poems and stories, and there are contributions from Sweden, Holland, France and U.S.A. It includes a description by Gunnar Sjogren, aged 12, of the Book Boat at Lidings, Sweden.

The U.S. Office of Technical Services is making plans for the consolidation of the *Translation Monthly* with its own lists of Government translations into a *Journal of Translations*, which will not only include listings of translated papers but also abstracts and indexes.

45,000 square miles is the service area of the Gascoyne Public Library in Western Australia, but the Royal Flying Doctor Service enables the librarian to give monthly book talks to stations in the outback and the mail contractors carry books without charge.

"In the good old days, a juvenile delinquent was a kid who owed a few pennies on an overdue library book." (*Territorial*, the magazine of the Reserve Army, December 1958).

Building for Books is the title of a documentary colour film made in connexion with the Library Appeal by Trinity College, Dublin (see October *Liaison*). It concerns the traditions and way of life of the modern college and won an award, against stiff competition, at the international festival at Cork.

Cheaper to be generous. Used periodicals in Beckenham's reference libraries are to be given away to hospitals, old people's homes, etc. The practice of selling them to the highest bidder is to be discontinued as not justifying the work involved. **Bridge-water** (Somerset) proposed to discontinue the yearly auctions of old magazines in favour of either filing them or selling them as waste paper. It was successfully objected, however, that "to file them in the library was tantamount to burying them, while to sell them to individuals would ensure the magazines remained in use". The proposal was deferred. A five hundred per cent increase has been noticed in Bridge-water's contribution to the National Central Library—from 4s. to £1.

The first **International Cataloguing Conference** will probably be held in 1961, under the auspices of I.F.L.A. A working group, under the Chairmanship of Dr. F. C. Francis (British Museum) to organize the Conference will hold a preliminary meeting in July this year.

One-third of the books borrowed from **Bristol's** libraries are taken out by children.

Plastic jackets for books in their lending library will cost **Camberwell** £1,400 a year.

Aslib's new £58,000 headquarters in Belgrave Square was formally opened on January 12th by Lord Hailsham. It was announced that the Government's grant to Aslib would be increased to £18,000, providing a contribution of £21,000 was forthcoming from industry.

Anxious to provide a good service and to meet a growing demand, **Sutton Coldfield** have asked people to make a gift to the library of novels in good condition which they no longer want. (Buddy, can you spare a "crime"?)

Plus ça change . . .

Since 1946 a sign on a plot of land at **Offerton** (Cheshire) has read "SITE for Branch Library". There is now a development to record—the sign is to be repainted.

Bookstacks radiating from a central inquiry point are a feature of plans for the reorganization of the central lending library at **Worthing**.

GADGETRY AND GOSSIP

The International Conference on Scientific Information which was held in Washington in November was a disappointment to anyone who might (unwisely) have expected some earth-shaking results to be thrown up. The organizers excluded any such possibility by taking the unusual course of having no papers read at the Conference itself; these were divided into subject areas and preprinted for discussion only. This later prompted the question whether the next stage in the development of conference procedure would be no papers, no meetings, but just informal talks. Perhaps Washington was just not a good example of this, because the discussions largely tended to ignore the preprints and lapsed into subsidiary papers.

But talking informally, gossiping in the corridors, was one form of scientific communication which the Conference confirmed was much used and even preferred by scientists. This fact emerged from direct observation of scientists at work and from their patient submission to questionnaires asking them what information services they needed and how they used the existing facilities. The sheer bulk of material which is being published—the output was reckoned to *double* every seventh year—tends to produce a vicious circle. Deterred by the volume of paper, scientists fail to read any but a small proportion of their literature, with the result that as an average a scientific paper will be read by no more than one person. On the other hand, the reaction of authors is to say the same thing in print as many times as possible in an attempt to gain attraction for their work. It is not surprising, therefore, that many scientists prefer to rely a lot on the personal contact, the private conversation, or just plain scientific gossip for picking up news of interest to their field. There was no inclination at the Conference to dismiss this as heresy; instead, there was mention of encouraging a return to the personal contacts between scientists which were the principal means of scientific communication a couple of hundred years ago. In this country D.S.I.R. has plans for a Science Pen Club which will help to put scientists into direct contact with each other, and the U.S.S.R. has already promised co-operation.

If chance, then, plays a significant part in the transmission of information, by scientists' preference for the informal channel of conversation, it is no less true of the reading of published material. Few scientists are systematic in their coverage of the periodicals and abstract journals in their field, and while it must be accepted that a fair proportion of useful data is picked up in this way, by chance, the total potential of scientific information is scarcely exploited. Again, this was taken as a further commentary on the general state of affairs rather than as dereliction of duty by the scientist. The value of browsing through the literature and of the random pick-up of information

was not questioned, and the gadget experts were reminded by Jesse Shera—"You can't browse in magnetic tape".

The shortcomings of abstracts, as keys to the literature, were discussed and bemoaned at length and as an impromptu demonstration of the difficulty in getting abstracts made in the first place, only *one* of the Conference papers in that section was preprinted together with an abstract. Referring to the necessity for speed in publishing abstracts, Prof. J. Bernal (U.K.) pointed out that the useful "life" of many physics papers was 2 years, and that it often took that long for an abstract to appear. The solution was not simply to persuade more authors to write their own abstracts when publishing papers. Already too many abstract journals merely copied abstracts made by authors, when what was really needed were "slanted" abstracts, derived directly from the original papers and written with the subject interests of particular groups of users in mind. The trouble here lay in the shortage of abstractors sufficiently experienced to do the thing effectively.

It was generally known, and was certainly no surprise, that the Americans were facing the abstracting problem by developing a machine to produce abstracts by direct scanning of the original. This device was exhibited at the Conference, but in its present form it failed to impress the U.K. visitors who were inclined to doubt the principle of operation. Although this IBM 704 was one of the few mechanical gadgets actually presented for inspection, the recurrent topic of the Conference was the use of machines—and very spectacular some of them sounded—for controlling and retrieving scientific literature. In fact, the Americans displayed almost a preoccupation with the philosophy and practice of using machines. Some very ambitious discussion centred around what these gadgets might ultimately achieve, assuming all the difficulties of programming were mastered. Some Americans tended to think in terms of it being only a matter of

First Impressions of the

time before we could safely leave it all to the computer.

Other delegates, certainly those from the U.K., did not share this confidence in the potentialities of the machine. Many spoke critically that none of the existing devices was as yet even satisfactory and that their cost—somewhere between £50,000 and £200,000—was prohibitive. Despite the fact that some two or three dozen machine systems were known to be in operation, only one solitary punched card system was actually described at the Conference and this gave point to the comment that much more needed to be known of the efficiency and economy of all this documentary hardware. Some American workers had stressed that there was considerable difficulty in assessing efficiency and economy factors, due to the inherent complexity of the whole question, and here the more empirical approach of U.K. workers was brought out by a paper describing the operational research being carried out on indexing

methods by the College of Aeronautics Library, at Cranfield. There was a strong feeling that far more de-

Washington Conference

velopment of subject indexing systems, on the lines already being followed in this country, would be at least as profitable as the pursuit of the machine myth. Already there was some evidence that in the U.S.A. work had been consigned to machine methods which could have been carried out as efficiently by conventional indexing techniques. In view of the experimental development of subject indexing systems which is being pursued by workers in Europe, it was urged that there should be co-operation and discussions to obtain agreement on working principles.

In the opinion of Prof. Bernal (who gave his views on the Washington Conference to a U. & R. meeting on 3rd January), the Conference was notable, *inter alia*, for two things. Unlike the Royal Society's London Conference on Scientific Information, in 1948, Washington was distinctly unrepresentative of the user: it was largely information workers talking to more information workers. Secondly, it had demonstrated that the problems associated with the increasing output of information had produced a situation even more confused than in 1948. It was now a commercial proposition to publish information in the form of compendia, monographs, books and periodicals; everyone wanted to climb on the band-wagon—there were, he said, no less than 18 firms in U.S.A. covering Metallurgy alone. Only organization of scientific information service at either the international or the national level could reduce the duplication and superfluity which resulted. At present only America and Russia could afford a national service, and it is worth noting in this

context that during the Conference Mikailov, of the U.S.S.R., had spoken of Russian plans to extend the *Referativnyi Zhurnal* abstracting journals to cover the whole field of science, technology and medicine. Prof. Bernal was less concerned for the immediate needs of the scientist, whom he thought struggled along well enough for the present. The greatest cause for concern lay in the tremendous loss we are suffering through our failure to organize a scientific information service on a rational and efficient footing.

TELEPRINTERS SPEED INTER-LIBRARY LOANS

Dr. van der Wolk, librarian of the Technical University at Delft, in the Netherlands, installed a teleprinter in his library last year. As well as being one of the largest technical libraries in Europe (stock 220,000 vols. excluding pamphlets), it is also one of the most progressive and has pioneered many new developments in microphotography. Already a number of messages, mainly for the loan of material, have passed between the Manchester Central Library and Delft. The cost of a three-minute Telex call to Holland is 4s. 9d. and the time taken to get a book about two days, which is both cheaper and quicker than more conventional methods of obtaining books from overseas. Dr. van der Wolk's initiative was quickly followed by three large scientific libraries in the Netherlands, and a **teleprinter network now connects some 35 libraries throughout the country**, and also extends to various centres of science elsewhere in Europe.

The results of Dr. van der Wolk's initiative have proved highly successful. Not only can books be lent much more quickly, but it has been possible to obtain supplies from German publishers in two or three days instead of two weeks. The teleprinter is speedy and accurate and cheaper than the telephone for long-distance work. A special "Tele-Code" has been worked out for use by libraries and information centres, and published in English, French, German and Dutch.

Inter-library communication by teleprinter in Europe is expected to grow rapidly, as the Telex system in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, the German Federal Republic, Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland is entirely automatic. Non-automatic communication is possible between libraries in these countries and those in France, United Kingdom, Italy, Eastern European countries, the United States, Argentina, South Africa and Japan.

RUSHING INTO PRINT?

"Design and Economics of Small Edition Printing for Libraries" was the title of a paper given on 13th November to the North Midland Branch by Mr. David MacLean, lecturer in Typography at the Nottingham and District Technical College. The lecture was a very practical one, and proved most instructive to all who heard it.

The first point made was that the object of printing is to convey a message and, if the messenger is shabbily dressed, talks in monotonous, or mumbles, little will be achieved. Printing enables a librarian to reach more people than he can hope to reach through personal conversation. Librarians must have some idea of what they want to say and how best to say it. First the attention must be arrested and held, and the language of the publicity must be convincing enough to yield a response on the part of the reader. While size and shape are important, it is essential that the size of the publicity should be a sub-division of a standard paper size, as it was the lecturer's experience that many libraries ordered a size for their material which involved quite appreciable wastage, which was paid for by the librarian.

An important point made was that of choice of paper, which generally ought to be a matt surface, since a glossy paper can often create eyestrain with its highly reflective quality under artificial light, and where possible, tinted paper should be used; here the lecturer deplored the black and white funereal aspect of most library letterheadings. Printers to-day had a good range of legible text and papers and Mr. MacLean made a strong plea for librarians to avoid the sans serif type face which was such a vogue twenty years ago. The use of one face with related italic and bold faces was usually quite sufficient for all ordinary publicity material.

All manuscripts should be typed, double spaced and on one side of the sheet only, with a generous margin on the left-hand side. All sheets of the printer's copy should be of uniform size and, if written in manuscript, all technical and scientific names should be clearly printed and the use of library jargon avoided. While he apologized for citing elementary principles, it was nevertheless a fact that many people will send incorrect copy to the printer and failed to realize that any alterations made after the first proof had been seen by the printer were at the customer's expense. If proofs are delayed in return to the printer, it must mean that a previously agreed "deadline" cannot be met, and if the deadline is insisted on, this often can only be done by overtime which again is charged to the customer.

COME TO THE PARTY

An informal party is to be held by the London School of Librarianship and Archives Old Students Association in the Joint Staff Common Room, University College London, from 7.30-9.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 4th February, 1959. Further details are being sent to members.

Will all friends and past students of the School of Librarianship and Archives wishing to attend please inform:

Mr. F. J. Hill,
Department of Printed Books,
British Museum,
London, W.C.1.

The party will be preceded by a meeting to discuss recruiting to L.A.O.S.A., and this will be held in the Council Common Room, University College, at 6.30 p.m. All old students are invited to attend.

In general, libraries could achieve greater economy by the use of standing type, by ordering in as large quantities as possible, and by standardizing forms which already had a great deal of common material. He felt that libraries could make more use of overprinting on an existing stock of headed paper, rather than commission a completely new piece of printing.

The most important point that Mr. MacLean made, however, was probably in his appeal to librarians to use Colleges of Art, or Technical Colleges, where Art and Printing Departments were maintained, for help in design of publicity material and covers. Generally he felt heads of departments would welcome these commissions as useful exercises for students.

All libraries in the area had been asked to submit examples of their printed material for this meeting and an Exhibition by type of material was held, prior to the lecture, and this proved to be extraordinarily interesting in showing the wide variation of layout in comparable items of stationery, coupled with a remarkable variation in costs. Mr. MacLean had reviewed all this material prior to the meeting and at the end of his lecture the list he gave of those libraries who were getting poor value for their money was a long and melancholy one.

This was a first-class paper for librarians and one can confidently look forward to a higher standard of all types of printed material within the North Midlands Branch area as a result of this meeting. Library assistants should have gained much profit from it and the collection of printed material is being preserved for use by students.

F. C. TIGHE.

ATOMIC ENERGY—NEW ENQUIRY POINT

An Information Centre has been opened at the London Office of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority. Its purpose is to provide a convenient centre in London where members of the public, commercial firms and other organizations may consult published unclassified material (i.e., with no security restrictions) and seek advice on sources of information on United Kingdom atomic energy matters. A collection of U.K.A.E.A. unclassified reports is available for reference. Indexes and abstracts of atomic energy literature are filed and publications about the work of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority are available.

The Centre forms part of the Public Relations Branch of the Authority. The facilities which it offers are complementary to the already well-established information services provided by the Authority at Harwell, Risley and, to a limited extent, Aldermaston, for dealing with scientific and technical enquiries.

Enquiries from the Press will continue to be dealt with by the Authority's Press Office at the same address.

Next to the Centre is a Photographic Library which holds a collection of some 8,000 photographs covering many aspects of atomic energy. Prints may be purchased out of stock or ordered to suit particular requirements. The library also holds stocks of slides in both colour and black-and-white which are available on loan.

The Information Centre and the Photographic Library are open from Mondays to Fridays inclusive between 9.30 a.m. and 5 p.m. The address is:

United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority,
11, Charles II Street,
London, S.W.1.

and the telephone numbers are:

INFORMATION CENTRE

Whitehall 6262: extensions 174 and 176.

PHOTOGRAPHIC LIBRARY

Whitehall 6262: extensions 368 and 369.

The Silk Centre

The library serving the Silk Centre (an information and publicity office of the silk and rayon industries) is now operating from 49 Park Lane, London, W.1 (Grosvenor 5533) and has been renamed the **Silk and Man-Made Fibres Library** (Librarian, Mrs. E. V. Lewis, F.L.A.).

National Science Lending Library Finds New Home

The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research is to take over part of the former Royal Ordnance Factory at Thorp Arch, near Boston Spa, Yorks, for the use of the new National Lending Library for Science and Technology. Present proposals indicate that the library will begin operating at Thorp Arch in 1961 and become fully operational during the following year. Existing large single-storey buildings will be converted into offices and book-stores, and the site provides adequate room for expansion in the future.

DOCUMENT REPRODUCTION

On Monday, 23rd February, 1959, The Office Management Association (Birmingham Branch) is sponsoring a One-Day Conference on "Document Reproduction" at the Grand Hotel, Birmingham.

At the morning session Mr. H. R. Verry of H.M. Treasury will deliver an address covering the whole field relating to this theme and after the luncheon to be held in connection with this event, the afternoon will be devoted to a working exhibition by some thirty leading manufacturers of all the equipment in this field.

Further details may be obtained from:

Mr. L. R. Julians,
Stewarts and Lloyds Limited,
Broad Street Chambers,
Birmingham, 1.
(Tel. MID. 2700).

GILLINGHAM AND THE I.G.Y.

Public Library Organizes Ambitious Exhibition

MUCH interest has been aroused by a major international exhibition which was organized at Gillingham by the Borough Librarian and his staff. This was "The Earth as a Planet", a Unesco scientific exhibition to celebrate the International Geophysical Year. It was held in the School of Military Engineering Drill Shed in Gillingham from 3rd-22nd November, 1958 with a total attendance of 15,980, including some 3,000 visitors in organized parties, mainly schools, many of them from all parts of Kent.

The material in the exhibition comprised seven sections: solar activity, the earth as a magnet, the upper atmosphere and the transmission of radio-electric waves, the lower atmosphere and meteorology, auroral phenomena, cosmic rays and I.G.Y. research. Miniature radio-telescopes showed how the sun's rays can be observed. Complex instruments demonstrated how scientists study cosmic rays and measure the magnetic field of the earth, while a special lamp reproduced the green and red rays of polar lights.

A 30ft. rocket standing outside the exhibition had obvious publicity value. The main popular appeal was the section relating to space travel and rocketry. Since the Russian Sputniks I and II arrived in this country shortly before showing at Gillingham, there was virtually a national première.

Cost was kept to a minimum, partly through much local co-operation, and partly through donations by the two local education executives and W. H. Smith who provided bookstall facilities.

Quite the biggest problem from the staff point of view was to obtain all the necessary voluntary workers including demonstrators with scientific knowledge of at least Advanced Level G.C.E., projectionists, security patrols, assistant secretaries, etc. These volunteers were obtained in due course mainly from the Medway College of Technology, British Petroleum Oil Refinery, local Grammar Schools and industrial establishments.

The Automobile Association sign-posted the route

to the exhibition through the Medway towns, the signs having publicity as well as directional value. These supplemented the 30-ft. banners and 1,000 small posters. The nearby N.A.A.F.I. Club agreed to permit the volunteer helpers to use their cafeteria for meals and occasional refreshments.

In addition to back-projection facilities within the exhibition, a wide variety of 16 mm. films on rockets, meteorology, etc. were shown at regular intervals in an adjoining room.

The local bus company arranged special buses when requested.

The exhibition was covered by the local press over a period of 6 or 7 weeks, with front-page features on one or two occasions and a considerable number of photographs. Additionally, considerable mention was made in the press at national level, mainly due to the interest in the Russian Sputniks. B.B.C. Television had devoted a minute of coverage in Television News, including many camera shots on the opening night, and B.B.C. Sound similarly broadcast a lengthy account from a reporter who visited Gillingham. The Russian Sputniks were loaned to B.B.C. Television for studio dressing for their programme "Breakthrough" on rockets and space-flight, and as a result "credits" were given to Unesco and Gillingham.

Supplementing the main part of the exhibition, displays were included by the Army (mainly British Antarctic Expedition equipment) and Navy, a bookstall by W. H. Smith and a Gillingham Public Libraries information desk which was continuously manned throughout the exhibition. The desk distributed over 5,000 copies of a booklet "And so to the Moon" to interested readers. The opportunity was also taken, to launch a new publicity leaflet "Introducing the Gillingham Public Library Service".

[This account has been supplied by Mr. N. Tomlinson, Borough Librarian, who has clearly added to his reputation for public relations work.]